

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 28, having a distance e separating the plane of the support strip and the plane of the third part, and said distance e is greater than or equal to a distance d between two juxtaposed inserts.
4. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 28, having the inserts fastened to the support trough via tenons on the inserts capable of being inserted into openings within the support trough.
5. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 4, the slat comprising a trough having in particular two lateral walls whose upper ends are folded inward, each forming an oblique fold provided with a plurality of openings or slots distributed over the whole length of the said folds, which openings ensure that the inserts are distributed and accommodate lugs formed on each side edge of the said inserts, the assembly of the lugs in the corresponding openings taking place by clipping.
6. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 28, the insert having a material void a maximum area no greater than that which will maintain the rigidity of the said insert spanning the area of the void, which void makes it possible on the one hand to reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 28, having the inserts fastened to the support trough via tenons on the inserts capable of being inserted into openings within the support trough.

10. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 3, having the inserts fastened to the support trough via tenons on the inserts capable of being inserted into openings within the support trough.

11. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 28, the insert having a material void with a maximum area no greater than that which will maintain the rigidity of the said insert spanning the area of the void, which void makes it possible on the one hand to reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

12. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 3, the insert having a material void with a maximum area no greater than that which will maintain the rigidity of the said insert spanning the area of the void, which void makes it possible on the one hand to reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

13. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 4, the insert having a material void with a maximum area no greater than that which will maintain the rigidity of the said insert spanning the area of the void, which void makes it possible on the one hand to reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

14. (Previously Presented) Slat according to Claim 5, the insert having a material void with a maximum area no greater than that which will maintain the rigidity of the said insert spanning the area of the void, which void makes it possible on the one hand to reduce the weight of each insert, and consequently that of the slat, and, on the other hand, makes it possible to achieve heat dissipation by allowing air or another agent to circulate within the said slats.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) Slat for a laser beam cutting machine table, comprising:

a. a trough which contains a plurality of spaced apart inserts arranged parallel or substantially parallel to one another, and:

b. each insert in the trough takes the form of a folded thin sheet-metal plate which comprises: a first part having a free upper edge, a second oblique part for deflecting a laser beam having a direction of incidence perpendicular to a supporting plane at a distance from the supporting plane connected with the first part along a fold line which is distinct from the free upper edge and located at a distance from the free upper edge, the free upper edges of the first parts of the inserts defining the supporting plane for a product to be cut, and a third part on a plane parallel to said first part and oblique to said second oblique part and connected to said second part by a fold line;

c. said first part of said sheet-metal plate having opposed main faces extending from said free upper edge substantially parallel to one another in a direction perpendicular to said supporting plane; and

d. said second part of said sheet-metal plate being inclined by an oblique angle with respect to said direction perpendicular to said supporting plane.

29. (Cancelled)